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A surprise party was given at the home of Cline Estis, near Bellflower, Friday night Dec. 28, and all reported as having a good time, although only a few being present.

George Downs, wife and family left for their home in Texas Monday, after a three weeks visit with relatives and friends here, at Gamma and in Pike county.

"Have a good business Christmas week? One business man asked another "Yes it far exceeded my expectations".

"How about the year's business"? Several thousand ahead of last year". And yet they ask what is the matter with Montgomery City.

Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay Maupin gave a party New Years' eve., which was well attended and all had a splendid time playing and watching the old year out and the new year in, after which they departed to their homes conscious of having watched one year out and another year in, and all witnessing closing of the 19th century and birth of the 20th.

The Misses Clark entertained a few friends at their beautiful home near this city, Tuesday night. Those present were: Misses Emily and Martha Graham, Lucy Nowlin, Jennie Hudson, and Miss Katherine Deen of Mexico. Messrs. Rosenberger of High Hill, Harry and Christy Clark, Harry Jacks and Chas. Muns.

F. E. Kraft gave a birthday party at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Kraft Saturday night, Dec. 29th. Games of different kinds being played, and then those present were treated to refreshments. Those present were: Misses Lillie and Gladys Brown, Lelia Ittner, Mollie, Emma, Gertrude Kraft and Retta Maupin. Messrs. Jas. Maupin, Herman Kraft, Louis Fuhr, Claude Cahall and Edgar Alderson, all spent a very pleasant evening.

You can say "Sheriff Wilson" now and "ex-sheriff McCall," Mr. McCall moved out of the jail last Monday and Mr. Wilson moved in. Charley is wearing his official honors with his usual becoming grace while Bob is just as jolly as a "high private" as he was when he was "high sheriff." Bob made a good officer and we believe Mr. Wilson will try to keep the standard just as high while he performs the duties of the office. The Tribune welcomes Mr. and Mrs. Wilson to Montgomery City.

THE NEW BORN CENTURY.

We who saw the 19th century fade into the silent past are considered the "lucky third generation," of the sons of men. The child born to-day dies before another century gets here. Perhaps nineteenth of those who are born thirty-three years from now will have fallen asleep before another century is born. The few who linger till the lapse of years ushers in the dawning light of the 21st century will be only those possibly, whom the love of God has blessed with the three-score years and ten. But those who are born in the "third third" are the "lucky third generation" and, as the world wags and Providence through nature metes out the measure of a man's life, a big percentage gets to take a square look at one end of two centuries without wearing eye-glasses. This is a kind of special privilege that nature bestows upon the favored few at the expense of the many, but the many can't help it and the few do the best they can to bear the exception.

One hundred years from now our grand children will read with loving pity and great commiseration that it took us two hours and thirty minutes to go from Montgomery City to St. Louis on the cars. They'll likely put on a hood of condensed air take a seat in a shuttle of a pneumatic tube and

make the trip to St. Louis in exactly four minutes and 10 seconds. The air ship may be able to fly in 100 years from now but the best prospect to annihilate space is in electricity, compressed air and the vacuum tubes.

Letters, papers, etc., will be sent from New York to San Francisco in one hour and every farm house will have a vacuum tube dropping mail into his home in 3 seconds after it is mailed to him. These are not mere idle fancies, they may be more than realized when this century draws its mantle about its bowed and aged form and lies down to sleep with the silent centuries of the past, Dec. 31, 2000.

There are too many things to be said about this new born century, but these are said that we may muse on the greatness of human achievements as man travels up toward the thoughts of God.

According to reports received by Dr. McElwee and by Doctor C. B. Elkins of Ozark, Mo., president of the State Board, there is small-pox in ninety out of the 114 counties of the state. Owing to the absence of any law requiring cases of variola to be reported there is no way of telling to what extent the disease prevails in the 24 remaining counties, but its spread is believed to have been general since last August. "There was never more smallpox in Missouri than there is at present" said Doctor McElwee, "and it prevails to such an extent in the southeastern and southwestern parts of the state that I have written to the Governor asking for an appropriation of \$25,000 to enable the board to better combat the epidemic." "The disease has flourished to a great extent since last August and has increased enormously since the weather grew cold enough to require the windows and doors to be closed. In the poorer classes of houses, where the occupants huddle together, the spread of the disease is fearfully rapid and the approaching colder weather, which will render the conditions even more favorable for its development, makes precautions absolutely necessary for the general public.

"The disease exists mostly along the lines of railroads. In counties where there are no railroads, no smallpox has been reported, except in cases where lumbering or mining camps afford favorable conditions for an epidemic. Most of the variola has been brought into the state from Arkansas and the Indian Territory." In Maries county, it is said, circuit court adjourned at Vienna on Wednesday last week, having been in session only two and a half days, on account of smallpox raging in that county.

Just as Gen. Fitzhugh Lee finished his address before the New England Society, in St. Louis last Friday night on the subject "The American Army and Navy," Gen. John W. Noble, a Union veteran and former Secretary of the Interior arose and said: "I love America! I love the American spirit! I love the man who has the courage to stand for the right as he sees it-the man who will stand for his principles! 'I know you believe the way you fought. General Lee and I honor you as the highest type of American manhood."

A remarkable coincidence is shown in a comparison of the census returns of Columbia and DeSota. Ten years ago the latter town has just forty fewer residents than Columbia. The increase during the decade has been 1,651 in each town. So Columbia is still forty ahead of DeSota, as it was in 1890, although relatively the latter's gain is the greater.

The jam of office-seekers at Jefferson City, it is said, will be the greatest in years. Those who are not in the push might as well come home. It is only those who were active in whooping 'em up for the lucky nominees who stand a show at the pie counter. Lincoln Co. News.

MILE-STONES OF THE CENTURY'S PROGRESS.

The farmer in 1800 plowed his land with a wooden plow, sowed the grain broadcast by hand, and when it was ripe cut it with a scythe and thrashed it on the barn floor with a flail. The enormous crops of to-day are made possible by agricultural machinery.

We produce more than two billion bushels of corn annually. Our cotton dominates all markets, being 85 per cent of the world's total crop. Texas alone produces more cotton than any foreign cotton-producing country. Our tobacco crop is five hundred million pounds per annum.

We are the richest country in the world. In the amount of our banking capital we stand first among nations, with \$1,000,000,000. With minerals it is pretty much the same as with crops. In 1800 the world produced 11,600,000 tons of coal, and of this quantity 10,000,000 tons came from the mines of Great Britain, the United States contributing only 200,000 tons. To-day the world's output of coal is 600,000,000 tons, and our contribution is 175,000,000 tons.

To return for a moment to the farmer: Three hours of a man's labor was required to produce a bushel of wheat in 1800; to-day the time required is only ten minutes. In the same period the cost of the labor needed to create that bushel has been reduced from 18 cents to 3 1/3 cents.

Morse first exhibited his telegraph in 1845, but it was not until 1844 that the first practical test was made over a line between Washington and Baltimore, congress having reluctantly appropriated \$30,000 for the purpose. By 1860 there were one hundred thousand miles of line in operation in the world, and in 1900 one million miles. About one million messages are sent by wire every day in the year.

The first submarine cable was laid in 1852, across the English Channel. Now there are one hundred and seventy thousand miles of such cables, and the number of messages sent approximate six million annually.

When the wife of President John Adams traveled from Philadelphia to Washington, in November, 1800 she made the journey by single-coach, and it took her a week. The distance is now covered by train in three hours.

In those days stage-coaches were the most rapid conveyances known, and the Indians described them in wondering admiration as "cabins on wheels."

The population of the world in 1800 was about 640,000,000. It is now estimated at 1,500,000,000, but while the number of human beings on the earth has increased 85 per cent, their cohesion has become so much closer that commerce has increased 1,231 per cent. From the exchange of a few articles of luxury, carried on the backs of animals or in slow-sailing vessels, commerce has expanded until it is now interchanges the products of all lands and climes, utilizing the swift moving train by land and the scarcely less swift steamship by sea.

The first steamship crossed the ocean in 1819. In 1900 the steam tonnage afloat is over 13,000,000, and the sailing tonnage over 11,000,000. The first vessel from New York to China required fifteen months for the round trip; now one may accomplish the journey both ways in a little over a month.

In 1800 a trip to Europe occupied over a month, and was very dangerous; now it is a holiday excursion of five days, and as safe as a trip by rail. A century ago messages of business took a year to reach the Orient and obtain a reply. To-day only a few hours, or even minutes, are consumed, thanks to the telegraph.

The population of the United States a century ago was 3,984,483; to-day it is approximately 76,250,000. In 1800 the area of Uncle Sam's domain was 827,844 square

miles, and it extended only from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi river. Now, including the newly acquired islands, it is 3,625,000 square miles. Save for the annexation of Texas, all of this additional territory has been acquired by a series of purchases, the total sum paid being only \$49,000,000.

The territory northwest of the Ohio in 1800 gave returns of a population numbering 45,365; Mississippi territory reported 8,850, and Indiana Territory 4,875. In New York state were enumerated 20,613 slaves, and in Pennsylvania 1,700 slaves.

There were in the whole United States a century ago 1,002,037 negroes, whereas the number of them to-day is about 8,000,000. Though they have multiplied so largely, the proportion they bear to the white population is only about two-thirds what it was in 1800.

In that year there was a Representative in congress for every 33,000 people; the present ratio (11th census) is one for every 173,901 people. There are 1,500,000 more males than females in the United States at the present time—a condition of affairs due mainly to immigration.

An American products which to-day has a wider sale probably than any other—namely, petroleum—was unknown in 1800. We export a million gallons of it annually, and it is carried wherever a wheel can roll or a camel's foot be planted. China uses immense quantities of our petroleum. The caravans on the Desert of Sahara go laden with astral oil, and the elephants of India are burdened with "standard white" in cases.

Illuminating gas was first used in this country by a citizen of Newport, David Melville, in 1806, to light his house and the street in front, being manufactured on his own premises. At present \$80,000,000 worth of the product is sold annually.

The library of congress was established in 1800. It is now the 4th largest collection in the world, comprising 1,000,000 printed books and pamphlets, 244,000 pieces of music and 103,200 law documents.

In 1800 each presidential elector voted for two persons. The candidates receiving the highest vote became president, and the next highest vice-president. This arrangement was altered to the present method by the Twelfth Amendment, ratified in 1804.

In 1800 we had twenty-eight state banks, with a capital of \$21,300,000. These institutions had \$17,500,000 in specie in their vaults, with notes outstanding that represented \$10,500,000. To-day there are in the United States 10,382 banks, with a total capital of \$1,024,728,675. Their deposits reach the enormous aggregate of \$7,331,553,249, and their united resources are \$10,785,825,444.

There are no figures to show how much money was in the country a century ago, but at the present time the actual cash in circulation amounts to \$25.50 for every man, woman and child in the United States.

Gold, of course, was rarely seen back in 1800, whereas at the present time we hold just about \$1,000,000,000 worth of that precious metal. This nation has more gold than any other.

Up to 1820 about two hundred and fifty thousand immigrants came to our shores. The record up to the end of 1900 is about eighteen million, of which number nearly one-half were from Ireland and Germany. Ireland is the only country that has suffered depopulation during the century, having lost about half of its people, owing chiefly to famines and evictions.

The richest man in the United States at the latter end of the 18th century was George Washington, who was pretty nearly a millionaire. Probably the richest man to-day is John D. Rockefeller, whose wealth is reckoned at \$300,000,000. Mr. Carnegie is supposed to be worth \$200,000,000, while W. K. Vanderbilt and William Wal-

dorf Astor probably come next with over \$100,000,000 apiece. These great millionaires cannot estimate their own riches within a margin of millions.

The poor man to-day is far better off than he was in 1800. He is freer man. Then he was simply a laborer, without social or political influence; now he has both, and his voice demands attention. In those days the wages of a carpenter was 63 cents a day, of a shoemaker 73 cents, of a blacksmith 70 cents, of a shipbuilder 90 cents. Toilers in the fields received from 25 to 40 cents.

The United States government took formal possession of Washington as the capital of the nation December 12, 1800. The beautiful city by the Potomac, which to-day has a population of 286,000, was then a wilderness. There was good shooting for rabbits and quail within a hundred yards of the unfinished capitol, and Pennsylvania avenue or nearly the whole distance from the capitol to the president's house, was a deep morass, covered with alder bushes. There were in the town eighty-four brick and 111 frame houses. Only the senate wing of the capitol had been erected, and at first the Representatives were crowded into a room intended for Senate officials. The treasury, a small structure on the corner of the lot occupied by the present imposing Treasury building, was the only departmental edifice as yet erected.

Of the presidential mansion, which was of sandstone and not then painted white, a congressman wrote that it "was built to be looked at by visitors and strangers, and would render its occupants objects of ridicule with some and of pity with others." Mrs. Adams, its first mistress, said in a letter to her daughter: "Not a single apartment is finished, and the great unfinished audience room (the east room) I make a drying-room to hang up the clothes in."

The Sixth Congress, which met in Washington in 1800 comprised thirty-two Senators and 112 Representatives. The Fifty-sixth congress was ninety Senators and 357 Representatives.

IN FORCE DEC. 19.

JEFFERSON CITY, MO., Dec. 22.—In answer to a request from Governor Stephens, Attorney General Crow today rendered an opinion on the amendments passed at the last election. He holds that the amendments became operative on Dec. 19, 1900, when the official vote was cast up by the secretary of State. Such parts of the amendment are self-enforcing became operative on the above date. The following is part of General Crow's opinion on the third amendment:

"As to amendment No. 3, relating to taxation of real estate and mortgage thereon announcing the principal to be applied in assessing, the same is, I believe, a prohibition against assessing the interest of the borrower in the property higher than the assessed value of the encumbered property less the assessed value of the debt of trust or mortgage."

"To illustrate: If the whole estate were assessed at one-tenth its actual value, or \$4,000, and mortgaged for \$1,200, then mortgage should be assessed at the land at \$4,000, less \$400, or \$3,600."

HE'S NOT IN IT.

"An editor is a millionaire without money, a congressman without a job is a king without a throne," says an exchange. contracts without a saw or nail builds a road without a spade and farms without a plow runs a butcher shop in the allestle world deals out brains for cash or credit. He loves truth out to save souls and lost himself. He heals the wretched, cares for the dying and the perishing, and starves when a ham sandwich works him from the jaws of death.